CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday
September 14, 2010
6:00 p.m.

Conference Room 1E-113
Bellevue City Hall
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Vice-Chair Robinson, Boardmembers George[1], Grindeland[2], LaPine, Stokes and Van Hollebeke

BOARDMEMBER ABSENT: Chair Roland Boardmember

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Robertson

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Nancy Kartes, Shelley McVein, Doug Sanner, Terry Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Robin Root James

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Robinson at 6:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Boardmember Stokes and second by Boardmember Van Hollebeke to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Boardmember Stokes and second by Boardmember Van Hollebeke to approve the July 13, 2010 regular meeting minutes of the Parks & Community Services Board. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

[1] Arrived at 6:02 p.m.
[2] Arrived at 6:04 p.m.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Robin Root James, 227 Bellevue Way NE, #73, Bellevue, WA
Bellevue Botanical Garden Society

The BBGS was recently awarded a $119,000 grant from the Institute of Museums and Library Services. The grant will be used to upgrade the Society's online database.

5. CHAIR COMMUNICATION:

None.

6. BOARD COMMUNICATION:

Boardmember Van Hollebeke expressed his appreciation to Terry Smith, Shelley Brittingham, and Glenn Kost for providing the park and facilities tours. He particularly enjoyed the facilities tour and commended the staff at the centers for their professionalism, hard work, and vision for the future.

Boardmember Grindeland visited many parks throughout the summer.

Boardmember Stokes made the following comments:

- Attended the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society Volunteer Appreciation Picnic.
- Volunteered for Eastside Heritage Center at the Fraser Cabin.

In Boardmember LaPine's ongoing survey of waterfront public access resources, he cited Vancouver, British Columbia's west-end area as a model. There is a large area of public access along the cityscape. Boardmember LaPine looks forward to the redevelopment of Meydenbauer Bay.

Vice-Chair Robinson attended the Bellevue Botanical Society Volunteer Appreciation Picnic. She was impressed by the diverse group of individuals that donate their time to the Society.

Boardmember George's son attended the Great Summer Adventure Camp during the summer months. She expressed her appreciation for this public service and the reasonable price of the program. She feels this program is particularly popular for single parents, and it fills a need for the community.

7. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:

Councilmember Robertson welcomed Boardmember Van Hollebeke to the Park Board. She also reported the following items:

- The budget for the Meydenbauer Park project is not on the seven-year CIP. Councilmember Robertson is working with the Meydenbauer neighborhoods and other Councilmembers to create a set of principles so the Plan can be adopted, as is, with a set of guiding principles and phasing plan for implementation.
- There is $7 million allocated in the capital budget for the Surrey Downs Park. However, the project is on hold until decisions are solidified with Sound Transit.
- Some of the City's bond debt was recently recast resulting in a $1.55 million savings.
- There were some recent thefts at the Bellevue Botanical Garden and Newport Hills Park. An emergency contract was issued to replace the stolen items.

Boardmember George called attention to an attachment from the April 12, 2010 Council Study Session, *"What is the Role of Council Appointed Boards and Commissions in the Budget One Process?"* In particular, she noted that the memo stated that the Parks Board will review and prioritize proposed lists of capital projects for recommendation to Council. However, Boardmember George was unclear about the specific intent of this memo and the role of the Park Board.

Councilmember Robertson clarified that it would be helpful for the Park Board to identify specific priorities related to Parks. She favors priorities that complete projects and priorities that implement the Park Plan.

8. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. Budget One Update

Mr. Sanner provided an overview of the information presented to City Council at its August 4, 2010 budget workshop. The City Manager's preliminary budget will be developed later in September.

Currently, the City is facing an operating deficit of approximately $10 million per year in the City's General Fund. The Capital Budget has been impacted as well with approximately $100 million affected in CIP funding over the next seven year. Mr. Sanner explained that these are projects that were previously approved in the CIP but no longer have sufficient revenues.

Mr. Sanner presented the City Manager's recommendation for an "outcome based" approach to the budget process. There are seven outcomes for organizing the budget, which Mr. Sanner discussed. They include:

- Economic Growth & Competitiveness
- Healthy & Sustainable Environment
- Improved Mobility
- Innovative, Vibrant & Caring Community
- Quality Neighborhoods
- Responsive Government
- Safe Community

Mr. Sanner provided a recap of the department's Operating Budget proposals. Items that were identified for budget reductions by the Results Team, in addition to targeted 5% expenditure reductions or revenue increases, were summarized by Mr. Sanner. Overall, these reductions total approximately $3 million and reduce the Parks cost to the General Fund by 13%. These additional reductions fell under the following outcome categories:

- Innovative, Vibrant & Caring Community/Quality Neighborhoods
- Safe Communities
- Healthy & Sustainable Environment

Mr. Foran clarified that the Leadership Team is in the process of determining the overall impacts of the above reduction recommendations.

Boardmember Stokes expressed his concern with the proposed increased user fees and impact on the community. Mr. Sanner clarified that the proposed recommendations include inflationary increases, passed through credit card charges, and evaluations of contract instructors.

Boardmember George questioned how the Capital Budget affects the percentage of operating cuts. Mr. Sanner clarified that there is no new capital included in the Operating Budget. Therefore, there is no impact to the 2011-2012 Operating Budget.

Mr. Foran discussed the process involved with pricing at the various facilities throughout the city. The most aggressive pricing occurs at the golf course. The market is surveyed frequently to respond to current conditions.

Mr. Sanner provided a recap of the Department's approach to the 2011-2017 CIP. The priorities include:

- Make good on commitment to voters from the 2008 Parks levy.
- Maintain existing infrastructure, both parks and natural assets.
- Complete previously approved planning projects.

In addition, Mr. Sanner provided a summary of the 2008 Parks levy, which was approved by 67% of Bellevue voters. Based upon the financial forecasts, the full City CIP levy match is not available. Therefore, projects will be deferred. A $58 million package was submitted for the levy but there is currently only $40 million available over the seven year program. Mr. Sanner clarified that the impacts of the delayed match are preliminary.

Mr. Sanner explained that there is $600,000 recommended to complete previously approved planning efforts (i.e., Meydenbauer Bay, Ashwood Park, Bel-Red Area). This would follow-through with previous commitments of the CIP and be fully funded through the Leadership Team CIP Panel.

Mr. Sanner reviewed a few projects that have dedicated funding sources. The recommended 2011-2017 Parks CIP includes the projects below, for a total of $73.3 million through 2017:

- $40.5 million for Park levy related projects (City levy plus CIP match).
- $28.5 million for Renovation/Refurbishment
- $0.6 million for Park Planning & Design

- $3.7 million for Dedicated Funding

Boardmember LaPine suggested that historical budget information be compared. Mr. Sanner explained that the Parks & Open Space levy that was approved in 2008 would make the comparison misleading. Parks CIP is approximately 20% of the City's total CIP.

Mr. Sanner summarized the Park Plan recommendations not included in the current/proposed CIP.

Boardmember George requested further information that compares the City Manager's capital budget recommendation with the Parks Department's recommendation and an explanation of the differences and/or impacts.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke feels the greatest impact from the budget cuts will be on the levy projects and requested further information on what will and will not be completed. He also questioned how long a project can remain dormant and/or if there are any timelines attached to the projects. Mr. Foran clarified that the project timelines depend upon when the city-match becomes available because there were several funding sources that were included in the original levy package. He added that the ordinance that establishes the levy doesn't prescribe specific timeframes. In addition, the funding package was sufficient to develop the first phase of the projects.

Boardmember LaPine thanked the Results Team, Leadership Team, and Parks & Community Services staff for their hard work on the budget process. He inquired how the budget will be communicated to the community. Mr. Foran explained that all groups or individuals that are identified as being impacted by budget cuts are being told about the potential cutbacks.

Boardmember LaPine questioned the rationale behind the projects selected for funding versus non-funding or delayed funding. Vice-Chair Robinson questioned whether or not it is beneficial to keep money allocated for Surrey Downs, since the project is delayed due to Sound Transit. She asked about the possibility of allocating less toward the planning phase of Surrey Downs and more toward a development project that could be completed. Mr. Foran explained the Council's priorities for the levy, which included Surrey Downs. He also explained that when the Sound Transit decisions are made, the Surrey Downs project could be completed within the CIP timeframe. Councilmember Robertson added that several Councilmembers feel strongly about keeping Surrey Downs on the CIP list because of the commitments made to the neighborhood.

Vice-Chair Robinson inquired about the total projected costs of the Meydenbauer Bay project. Mr. Foran discussed cost estimates noting the largest expense in the project is in the gateway element of the plan. The City is optimistic that arrangements can be made with partners to develop the gateway piece. The second significant component of the plan is the redevelopment of the marina.

Boardmember George observed that parks projects are competing with other departments' projects with which the Park Board is not familiar, such as tripling the capital money for the Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP). She asked if it is within the scope of the Park

Board's review to recommend shifting money from non-parks projects such as NEP to parks projects. Councilmember Robertson discussed the NEP process. The new program would replace the existing program and be less frequent, more specific, and encompass larger projects citywide.

Boardmember Stokes stressed the importance of remaining positive and effectively communicating the Parks projects.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke requested clarification on how to differentiate between maintenance/operational expenses versus CIP expenses. Mr. Sanner will forward further clarification to Boardmember Van Hollebeke.

Boardmember Grindeland expressed her concerns about the significant impacts of the budget on the Parks Department, particularly regarding the Operating Budget. Mr. Foran explained the gradual degradation that will occur with the budget reductions and the impacts on the community if the economy does not stabilize. Boardmember Stokes has already noticed some of the reduction impacts. Councilmember Robertson added that the Budget One results show an approximate $2 million gap so further reductions are anticipated.

Motion by Boardmember Grindeland and second by Boardmember Stokes to extend the meeting until 8:10 p.m. Motion carried (5-1).

Boardmember LaPine inquired what the next steps will be after the initial Budget One process. Mr. Foran explained that there will most likely be a debrief session with Council and staff. He discussed other expectations for Budget One follow-up.

9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

For the fourth year in a row, America's Promise Alliance named Bellevue one of the 100 best communities for young people. Partners recognized for this recognition included: Bellevue Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, and the Bellevue School District.

The Bellevue Youth Theatre recently received a pledge for $100,000. In addition, the City has applied for a Federal grant that could provide up to $2 million for the BYT project.

10. ONGOING/OLD BUSINESS:

A. Boardmember committee/liaison reports

11. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Future agenda items

Boardmember LaPine requested that park safety be added to a future agenda item. Mr. Smith confirmed that this has been added to the Future Agenda Items list.

12. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:

A. CIP Project Report

B. Memo re Well-Kept program

C. Memo re Art in the Park at BBG

D. Comments from citizens
- Thomas McGehee re Hidden Valley Park and scheduling staff
- Linda Dybwad re Crossroads Park
- Mr. Haslin re Sunset Ravine Open Space trail system
- Mike Erickson re Crossroads Park
- Genevieve Tremblay re Robinswood Tennis Center
- Hopelink client re Bellevue Parks' summer programs
- Shawna Barlow re Kelsey Creek day camp
- Susanna Stratford re Highland Skate Camp

13. INFORMATION:

A. List of upcoming Parks special events

B. September 25 – Park Board Special Meeting (Annual Retreat at MSEEC)

C. October 12 – next scheduled regular Park Board meeting

14. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

15. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Boardmember Stokes and second by Boardmember George to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Saturday
September 25, 2010
8:00 a.m.

MSEEC
1625 118th Ave SE
Bellevue, WA

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Roland, Vice-Chair Robinson, Boardmembers George, Grindeland, LaPine, Stokes, Van Hollebeke

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Terry Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Councilmember Robertson

MINUTES TAKER: Nancy Harvey

1. OPENING REMARKS

Chair Roland called the meeting to order and welcomed the group.

2. VALUE & BENEFIT OF PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Mr. Foran gave a brief talk about the history of parks and the value of parks and community services to the community.

3. TEAM BUILDING

Boardmembers and Councilmember Robertson participated in a team-building exercise.

4. COUNCILMEMBER COMMUNICATION

Councilmember Robertson briefly discussed with the Board:

- The role of parks in Bellevue,
- The effect of the current recession/budget realities on parks programs and projects,
- Her role as Council Liaison to the Park Board, and
- Strategies for communicating with the City Council.

5. COMMUNICATION STYLES

Mr. Smith led the Board in a discussion of their personal communication styles.

6. PUBLIC PROCESS

The Board, Councilmember Robertson and staff engaged in a discussion about public process and the role of the Board as a whole and as individual Boardmembers.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m.